Descriptive Essay Rubric

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| CATEGORY | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| **Title** | Title is creative, sparks interest and is related to the topic. | Title is related to the topic but needs to be more creative. | Title is present. | No title present. |
| **Introduction (Organization)** | The introduction is inviting, states the main topic, previews the structure of the paper, and includes a well-written, clever lead that is related to the essay’s topic which attracts the reader’s attention. | The introduction clearly states the main topic and previews the structure of the paper, but is not particularly inviting to the reader. A well-written lead is used to attract the reader’s attention. | The introduction states the main topic, but does not adequately preview the structure of the paper nor is it particularly inviting to the reader. A lead is used but is not particularly attractive to the reader or does not relate to the topic. | There is no clear introduction of the main topic or structure of the paper. No lead is used. |
| **Focus on Topic (Content)** | There is one clear, well-focused topic. Main idea stands out and is supported by detailed information. Well-written topic sentences are used in each 5-7 sentence paragraph. | Main idea is clear but the supporting information is general. Topic sentences are used in each paragraph. | Main idea is somewhat clear but there is a need for more supporting information. Topic sentences are used in most paragraphs. | The main idea is not clear. There is a seemingly random collection of information.  Topic sentences appear in few or none of the paragraphs. |
| **Supporting Information/**  **Details** | Several relevant, telling, quality details give the reader important information that allow the reader to picture, smell, feel, hear or imagine tasting things described. | Supporting details and information are relevant, but one key issue or part of the description is unsupported. There are a few vivid details in the essay. | Supporting details and information are relevant, but several key issues or are unsupported. There are details but they do not help the reader imagine they are involved. | Supporting details and information are typically unclear or not related to the topic. There are no or barely any vivid details in the essay. |
| **Grammar & Spelling** | Writer makes no errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling. | Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling. | Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling. | Writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling. |
| **Form/Neatness** | Essay is appropriate length and is neatly handwritten with no mistakes or is neatly typed in black ink in 12-14 font. | Essay is neatly or is neatly typed in black ink 12-14 font. | Essay is not particularly neatly handwritten or is neatly typed in black ink in a non-requested font or font size. | Essay is not neatly handwritten or is not neatly typed or is written/typed in ink that is hard to read. |